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S. Department of Agriculture

Statistical Reporting Service

Picture Story No. 184

July 1965

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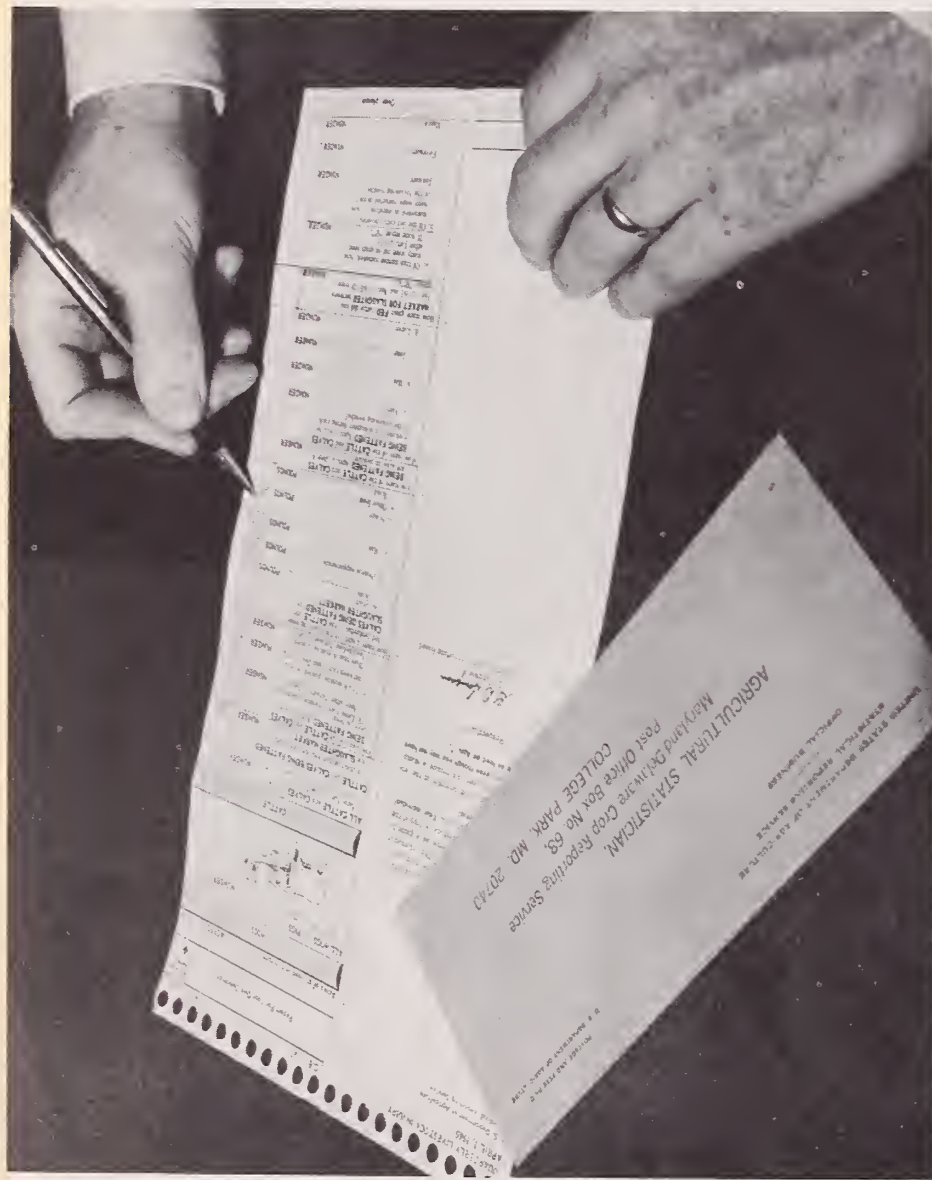
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Crop reports start with thousands of individuals in various phases of agriculture—farmers and ranchers, warehousemen, merchants. Many volunteer reporters have served 10, 20, 30 years, and some over 50 years. These reporters fill out questionnaires on livestock, planted acreage, production, yield, and supply other essential information concerning their agricultural business. N-56572



The U. S. Department of Agriculture is not normally thought of as a government agency dealing with secret documents. But at least twice a month in Washington, D. C., USDA's Statistical Reporting Service works behind locked and guarded doors.

The SRS Crop Reporting Board prepares some 700 reports annually—34 of them under strict security conditions. Although all reports are kept confidential until release time, special precautions called a "lock-up" prevail for reports concerning wheat, corn, cotton, soybeans, and certain other crops traded on commodity exchanges. The lock-up prevents advance knowledge leaking to market speculators. The reports are released at a prearranged time. Everyone has access to the information at the same time.

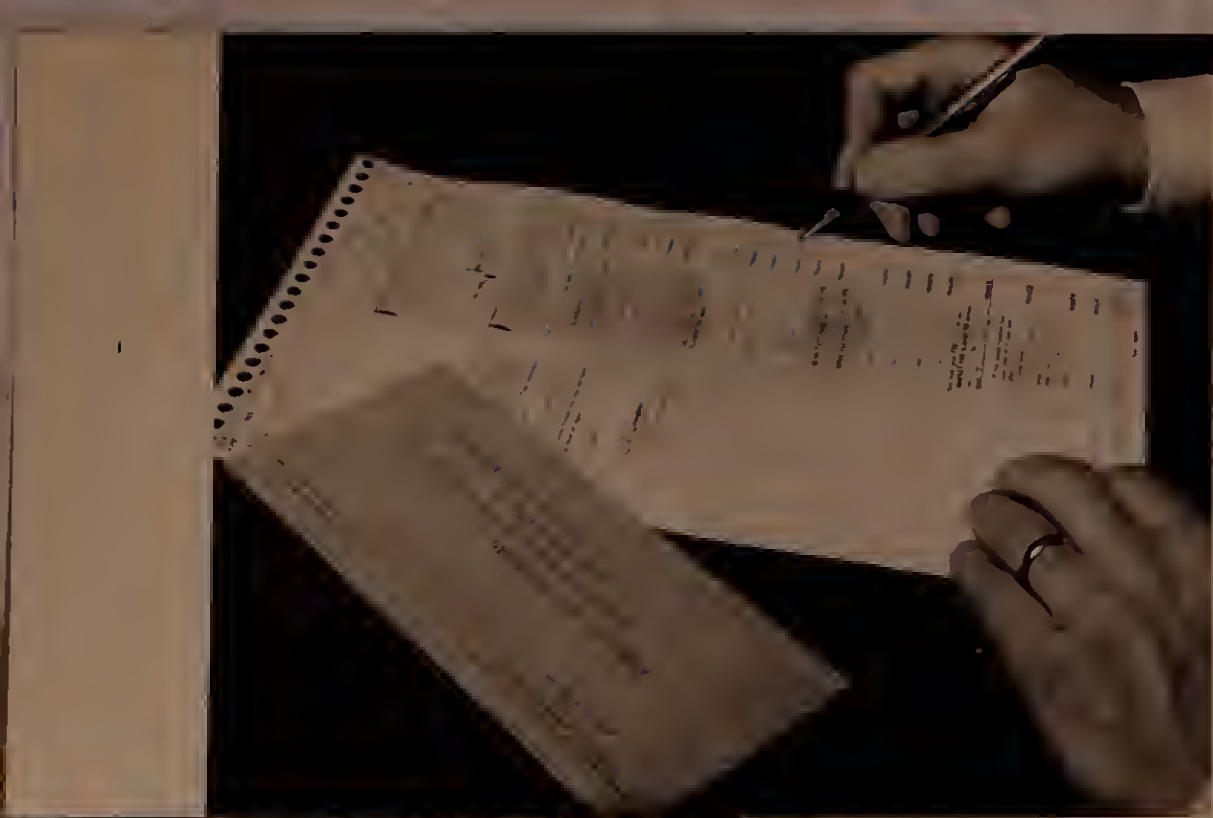
Security on speculative crops begins prior to lock-up day. Questionnaires from crop reporters, enumerators, and objective yield surveys are collected and compiled in confidence by State Statisticians. Results are



Two other systems supplement data from reporters. Enumerators ask many farmers about land use and livestock numbers in each field designated by USDA maps and aerial photos. In an objective yield survey, monthly measurements of crop growth in small, randomly selected sections of fields help improve nationwide cotton, corn, soybean, and wheat estimates. SCS-ARK-D25-51



About 100 authorized people enter the lock-up area, and no one comes out until the report has been released. There is no communication with the outside, no phone calls. Window blinds are pulled and secured. Exits are guarded. N-55854



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The 43 field offices of the Statistical Reporting Service summarize the facts and figures on crop acreage, yields, livestock numbers, farm income, and other agricultural details for the 50 States. The results established from crop reporters' estimates and the enumerative and objective yield surveys are sent to the USDA home office in Washington, D. C. N-46111



State tabulations for speculative crops wait unopened in a special locked mailbox at USDA. The Secretary of the Crop Reporting Board and a representative for the Secretary of Agriculture have the only keys. Early on report day the contents are taken to the lock-up rooms under guard. N-56258

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Security on speculative crops begins prior to lock-up day. Questionnaires from crop reporters, enumerators, and objective yield surveys are collected and compiled in confidence by State Statisticians. Results are airmailed, special delivery, to the Secretary of Agriculture, and placed in a double-lock mailbox in his office.

On the day a report on a speculative commodity is to be prepared and released, this material is taken under guard to the lock-up quarters, where all window blinds are closed and sealed, phones disconnected, and guards posted.

Behind the closed doors, the Crop Reporting Board studies the State material to produce official National and State tabulations. Copies of the completed reports are then taken to the release room where news reporters are waiting. At a signal from the USDA release officer, reporters dash to their individual phones and flash the news—the crop report is made available to the Nation and the world.



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Inside the lock-up, State figures are reviewed by commodity specialists of the Crop Reporting Board to arrive at official estimates for a State and the Nation as a whole. The report is signed by the Secretary of Agriculture or a member of his office. N-46434



Just minutes before release time, the Chairman and the Secretary of the Board, followed by other officials go directly across the hall to the release room—talking with no one and looking straight ahead. Reports are placed face-down in phone booths several feet from newsmen. N-55851



For more information about crop and livestock reporting activities in your area, contact the Statistician in charge in your State or region.

ALABAMA	George B. Strong, 474 S. Court St., Montgomery	NEW ENGLAND**	B. S. Peterson, 1305 Post Office Bldg., Boston, Massachusetts
ALASKA	Duane M. Skow, Rm. 13, Stevens Bldg., Palmer	NEW JERSEY	William J. Fluke, 211 Post Office Bldg., Trenton
ARIZONA	Floyd E. Roff, 6445 Federal Office Bldg., Phoenix	NEW MEXICO	Joe D. Hermon, 142 S. Water St., Los Cruces
ARKANSAS	Roy D. Boss, 362 Federal Bldg., Little Rock	NEW YORK	William I. Boir, Dept. of Agri. & Markets, State Campus, Albany
CALIFORNIA	Robert S. Overton, 1141 Federal Bldg., Denver	NORTH CAROLINA	Henry L. Rasor, 207 State Dept. of Agri. Bldg., Raleigh
COLORADO	Joe E. Mullin, 1222 Woodward St., Orlando	NORTH DAKOTA	C. J. Heltemes, 210 Post Office Bldg., Fargo
FLORIDA	Archie Longley, 315 Hoke Smith Annex, Univ. of Georgia, Athens	OHIO	James R. Kendall, 217 Old Federal Bldg., Columbus
GEORGIA	Paul P. Wallrobenstein, 1428 So. King St., Honolulu	OKLAHOMA	Donald D. Pittmon, 504 Post Office Bldg., Oklahoma City
HAWAII	Clorence E. White, 506 Eastman Bldg., Boise	OREGON	Raymond B. Hile, 304 U. S. Court House, Portland
IDAHOO	Robert H. Moots, 218 U. S. Post Office & Court House Bldg., Springfield	PENNSYLVANIA	Dewey O. Boster, 2301 N. Comeron St., Harrisburg
ILLINOIS	R. E. Strosheim, Agri. Experiment Station, Purdue University, West Lafayette	SOUTH CAROLINA	C. H. Whitworth, U. S. Court House, Columbia
INDIANA	R. H. Sutherland, 506 Iowa Bldg., Des Moines	SOUTH DAKOTA	Roy Potos, 312 S. Minnesota Avenue, Sioux Falls
IOWA	J. E. Pollesen, 200 Post Office Bldg., Topeka	TENNESSEE	Robert Hobson, 554 U. S. Court House, Nashville
KANSAS	James M. Koepfer, 434 Federal Bldg., Louisville	TEXAS	C. D. Palmer, 8th & San Jacinto Sts., Austin
KENTUCKY	Clorence O. Parker, 3737 Government St., Alexandria	UTAH***	Alton R. Larsen, 125 S. Stote St., Salt Lake City
LOUISIANA	C. N. Guelow, Symons Hall, Univ. of Maryland, College Park	VIRGINIA	Thomas L. Stuart, 203 N. Governor St., Richmond
MARYLAND*	C. A. Hines, 205 Federal Bldg., Lansing	WASHINGTON	Emery C. Wilcox, 348 Federal Office Bldg., Seattle
MICHIGAN	F. J. Groham, 560 Stote Office Bldg., St. Paul	WEST VIRGINIA	Alon R. Miller, Stote Dept. of Agri., Charleston
MINNESOTA	R. B. Converse, 1002 Stote Office Bldg., Jackson	WISCONSIN	H. M. Walters, 2747 University Avenue, Madison
MISSISSIPPI	A. C. Britton, 209 Post Office Bldg., Columbia	WYOMING	L. J. Hoffman, Post Office & Court House Bldg., Cheyenne
MONTANA	T. J. Kuzelka, 616 Helena Avenue, Helena		
NEBRASKA	A. V. Nordquist, 211 Post Office Bldg., Lincoln		

* For Delaware also.

** For Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, & Vermont.

*** For Nevada also.

An official of USDA eyes the clock's second hand and indicates the exact release time to waiting newsmen. Reporters hurry across a starting line to phones already connected with their offices. The crop report is now on its way to being public information. N-41783

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